

REIMBURSABLE SPACE ACT AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION  
GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER  
AND BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA FOR THE  
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA- LINCOLN  
FOR BUILDING A GLOBAL COMPOSITE DROUGHT INDICATOR (GCDI) HOT SPOT  
EARLY WARNING AND INFORMATION SYSTEM FOLLOW-ON EFFORT (PHASE II) .

ARTICLE 1. AUTHORITY AND PARTIES

In accordance with the National Aeronautics and Space Act (51 U.S.C. § 20113(e)), this Agreement is entered into by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Goddard Space Flight Center, located at 8800 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20771 (hereinafter referred to as "NASA" or "NASA GSFC") and UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT LINCOLN located at 151 Prem S. Paul Research Center, 2200 Vine Street, Lincoln, NE 68583-0861 (hereinafter referred to as "Partner" or "UNL"). NASA and Partner may be individually referred to as a "Party" and collectively referred to as the "Parties."

ARTICLE 2. PURPOSE

The proposed activity with the Partner will target the development and delivery of derived data products such as Composite Drought Indicator (CDI) based on the upcoming NASA NLDAS-3 environment. The generated data products will be transitioned through the NASA vision of open science-based environments leveraging the significant investments at NASA (and MSFC in particular) by the Earth Science Data Systems (ESDS) program. The overall goal will be to implement a near-real-time modeling environment that fulfills the significant gap for drought monitoring applications that are of strategic importance for national security resilience planning. The proposed activity with the Partner will target the development of derived products such as CDI over Outside the Continental U.S. (OCONUS) based on output from a global operational land hydrology environment called the Global Hydro Intelligence (GHI) system. Specific output products will be developed based on feedback from the UNL team and downstream product stakeholders. In particular, the focus will be on the development of drought outlooks based on the medium-range (0 – 2 week) and S2S (2 week – 9 month) GHI components.

ARTICLE 3. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. NASA GSFC will use reasonable efforts to:

1. Integrate derived products from NASA's NLDAS-3 over OCONUS based on NASA's GHI System consisting of four sub-system's timescales of monitoring and prediction into the GCDI and Global Hydrologic CDI (GHCDI). The timescales are (1) a near-real-time environment, (2) medium-range, (3) subseasonal-to-seasonal, and (4) inter-annual. Derived products will include raw and anomaly/percentile-based products of outputs such as surface (0-10 cm) soil moisture, root-zone (10-200 cm) soil moisture, groundwater levels, evapotranspiration,

streamflow, downscaled meteorological inputs (such as temperature and precipitation) and surface runoff. The products will create generation of near-real-time and medium range derived products from GHI outputs, and the generation of S2S derived products from GHI outputs.

2. Provide an assessment of derived GHI products from all timescales within the GCDI/GHCDI framework.

B. Partner will use reasonable efforts to:

1. Develop a joint work plan with NASA that details timeline, roles and responsibilities of all activities.

2. Provide feedback on what the specific products that will be developed and will collaborate on the assessment of derived GHI products from all timescales within the GCDI/GHCDI framework.

#### ARTICLE 4. SCHEDULE AND MILESTONES

The planned major milestones for the activities defined in the "Responsibilities" Article are as follows:

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Schedule</b>
NASA GSFC will establish Global Hydro Intelligence (GHI) Near-Real-Time (NRT) ‘streamflow-variant’ data flow	31-October-2024
NASA GSFC will establish a benchmark for evaluating GCDI/GHCDI using GHI NRT ‘streamflow-variant’ data as input	30-April-2025
NASA GSFC will provide support for testing and evaluation of GHI NRT ‘streamflow-variant’-based GCDI/GHCDI output	31-May-2025
NASA GSFC will provide support for verification/validation of GHI NRT ‘streamflow-variant’-based GCDI/GHCDI products for OCONUS locations of interest to Air Force Weather	31-May-2025
NASA GSFC will submit a Final Report	31-May-2025
NASA GSFC will provide project status reports	Quarterly

#### ARTICLE 5. FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

A. Partner agrees to reimburse NASA an estimated cost of \$200,000 for NASA to carry out its responsibilities under this Agreement. In no event will NASA transfer any U.S. Government funds to Partner under this Agreement. Payment must be made by Partner in advance of initiation of NASA’s efforts on behalf of the Partner.

B. Payment shall be payable to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration through the NASA Shared Services Center (NSSC) (choose one form of payment): (1) U.S. Treasury FEDWIRE Deposit System, Federal Reserve Wire Network Deposit System; (2) pay.gov at <https://www.nasa.gov/specials/nssc-pay/> and select the appropriate NASA Center for the agreement from the drop down; or (3) check. A check should be payable to NASA and sent to:

NASA Shared Services Center FMD – Accounts Receivable For the Accounts of:Goddard Space Flight Center Building 1111, Jerry Hlass Rd., Stennis Space Center, MS 39529 Payment by electronic transfer (#1 or #2, above), is strongly encouraged, and payment by check is to be used only if circumstances preclude the use of electronic transfer. All payments and other communications regarding this Agreement shall reference the Center name, title, date, and number of this Agreement.

C. NASA will not provide services or incur costs beyond the existing payment. Although NASA has made a good faith effort to accurately estimate its costs, it is understood that NASA provides no assurance that the proposed effort under this Agreement will be accomplished for the above estimated amount. Should the effort cost more than the estimate, Partner will be advised by NASA as soon as possible. Partner shall pay all costs incurred and has the option of canceling the remaining effort, or providing additional funding in order to continue the proposed effort under the revised estimate. Should this Agreement be terminated, or the effort completed at a cost less than the agreed-to estimated cost, NASA shall account for any unspent funds within [insert timeframe, cannot exceed one (1) year] after completion of all effort under this Agreement, and promptly thereafter return any unspent funds to Partner. Return of unspent funds will be processed via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) in accordance with 31 C.F.R. Part 208 and, upon request by NASA, Partner agrees to complete the Automated Clearing House (ACH) Vendor/Miscellaneous Payment Enrollment Form (SF 3881).

D. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, all activities under or pursuant to this Agreement are subject to the availability of funds, and no provision of this Agreement shall be interpreted to require obligation or payment of funds in violation of the Anti-Deficiency Act, (31 U.S.C. § 1341).

#### ARTICLE 6. PRIORITY OF USE

Any schedule or milestone in this Agreement is estimated based upon the Parties' current understanding of the projected availability of NASA goods, services, facilities, or equipment. In the event that NASA's projected availability changes, Partner shall be given reasonable notice of that change, so that the schedule and milestones may be adjusted accordingly. The Parties agree that NASA's use of the goods, services, facilities, or equipment shall have priority over the use planned in this Agreement. Should a conflict arise, NASA in its sole discretion shall determine whether to exercise that priority. Likewise, should a conflict arise as between two or more non-NASA Partners, NASA, in its sole discretion, shall determine the priority as between those Partners. This Agreement does not obligate NASA to seek alternative government property or services under the jurisdiction of NASA at other locations.

#### ARTICLE 7. NONEXCLUSIVITY

This Agreement is not exclusive; accordingly, NASA may enter into similar agreements for the same or similar purpose with other private or public entities.

#### ARTICLE 8. LIABILITY

A. Partner hereby waives any claims against NASA or one or more of its Related Entities for any injury to, or death of, Partner or one or more of its Related Entities, or for damage to, or loss of,

Partner's property or the property of its Related Entities, arising from or related to activities conducted under this Agreement, whether such injury, death, damage, or loss arises through negligence or otherwise, except in the case of willful misconduct. For purposes of this Agreement, "Related Entities" shall mean contractors and subcontractors of a Party at any tier; grantees, investigators, customers, and users of a Party at any tier and their contractors or subcontractor at any tier; or, employees of the Party or any of the foregoing. B. Partner further agrees to extend this unilateral waiver to its related entities by requiring them, by contract or otherwise, to waive all claims against NASA and its Related Entities for injury, death, damage, or loss arising from or related to activities conducted under this Agreement. In the event the U.S. Government incurs any liability based upon Partner's failure to provide for the waiver by Partner's Related Entities set out above, Partner agrees to indemnify and hold the U.S. Government harmless against such liability, including costs and expenses incurred by the U.S. Government in defending against any suit or claim for liability by Partner's Related Entities. C. In the event U.S. Government property is damaged as a result of activities conducted under this Agreement, except in the case of gross negligence or willful misconduct by NASA, Partner shall be solely responsible for the repair and restoration of such property subject to NASA direction. Prior to issuing such direction, NASA will consider input from Partner and other factors such as the extent to which damage was attributable to the activity and the respective responsibilities of each party as described in the agreement. D. Notwithstanding the other provisions of this Article, the waiver of liability set forth in this section shall not be applicable to: i. Claims between Partner and its own Related Entity or between its own Related Entities; ii. Claims made by a natural person, his/her estate, survivors, or anyone claiming by or through him/her (except when such person or entity is a Party to this Agreement or is otherwise bound by the terms of this waiver) for bodily injury to, or other impairment of health of, or death of, such person; iii. Claims for damage caused by willful misconduct; iv. Intellectual property claims; v. Claims for damage resulting from a failure of Partner to extend the waiver of liability to its Related Entities, pursuant to paragraph B of this Article; or vi. Claims by Partner arising out of or relating to NASA's failure to perform its obligations under this Agreement.

#### ARTICLE 9. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS - DATA RIGHTS

Information and data exchanged under this Agreement is exchanged without restrictions unless required by national security regulations (e.g., classified information) or as otherwise provided in this Agreement or agreed to by the Parties for specifically identified information or data (e.g., information or data specifically marked with a restrictive notice).

#### ARTICLE 10. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS - INVENTION AND PATENT RIGHTS

- A. "Related Entity" as used in this Invention and Patent Rights Article means a contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or other entity having a legal relationship with NASA or Partner assigned, tasked, or contracted with to perform activities under this Agreement.
- B. The invention and patent rights herein apply to employees and Related Entities of Partner. Partner shall ensure that its employees and Related Entity employees know about and are bound by the obligations under this Article.

C. NASA has determined that 51 U.S.C. § 20135(b) does not apply to this Agreement. Therefore, title to inventions made (conceived or first actually reduced to practice) under this Agreement remain with the respective inventing party(ies). No invention or patent rights are exchanged or granted under this Agreement. NASA and Partner will use reasonable efforts to report inventions made jointly by their employees (including employees of their Related Entities). The Parties will consult and agree on the responsibilities and actions to establish and maintain patent protection for joint invention, and on the terms and conditions of any license or other rights exchanged or granted between them.

#### ARTICLE 11. USE OF NASA NAME AND NASA EMBLEMS

A. NASA Name and Initials Partner shall not use “National Aeronautics and Space Administration” or “NASA” in a way that creates the impression that a product or service has the authorization, support, sponsorship, or endorsement of NASA, which does not, in fact, exist. Except for releases under the “Release of General Information to the Public and Media” Article, Partner must submit any proposed public use of the NASA name or initials (including press releases and all promotional and advertising use) to the NASA Associate Administrator for the Office of Communications or designee (“NASA Communications”) for review and approval. Approval by NASA Office of Communications shall be based on applicable law and policy governing the use of the NASA name and initials.

B. NASA Emblems Use of NASA emblems (i.e., NASA Seal, NASA Insignia, NASA logotype, NASA Program Identifiers, and the NASA Flag) is governed by 14 C.F.R. Part 1221. Partner must submit any proposed use of the emblems to NASA Communications for review and approval.

#### ARTICLE 12. RELEASE OF GENERAL INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC AND MEDIA

NASA or Partner may, consistent with Federal law and this Agreement, release general information regarding its own participation in this Agreement as desired. Pursuant to Section 841(d) of the NASA Transition Authorization Act of 2017, Public Law 115-10 (the “NTAA”), NASA is obligated to publicly disclose copies of all agreements conducted pursuant to NASA’s 51 U.S.C. §20113(e) authority in a searchable format on the NASA website within 60 days after the agreement is signed by the Parties. The Parties acknowledge that a copy of this Agreement will be disclosed, without redactions, in accordance with the NTAA.

#### ARTICLE 13. DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTY

Goods, services, facilities, or equipment provided by NASA under this Agreement are provided “as is.” NASA makes no express or implied warranty as to the condition of any such goods, services, facilities, or equipment, or as to the condition of any research or information generated under this Agreement, or as to any products made or developed under or as a result of this Agreement including as a result of the use of information generated hereunder, or as to the merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose of such research, information, or resulting product, or that the goods, services, facilities or equipment provided will accomplish the intended results or are safe for any purpose including the intended purpose, or that any of the above will not interfere with privately-owned rights of others. Neither the government nor its

contractors shall be liable for special, consequential or incidental damages attributed to such equipment, facilities, technical information, or services provided under this Agreement or such research, information, or resulting products made or developed under or as a result of this Agreement.

#### ARTICLE 14. DISCLAIMER OF ENDORSEMENT

NASA does not endorse or sponsor any commercial product, service, or activity. NASA's participation in this Agreement or provision of goods, services, facilities or equipment under this Agreement does not constitute endorsement by NASA. Partner agrees that nothing in this Agreement will be construed to imply that NASA authorizes, supports, endorses, or sponsors any product or service of Partner resulting from activities conducted under this Agreement, regardless of the fact that such product or service may employ NASA-developed technology.

#### ARTICLE 15. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND REGULATIONS

A. The Parties shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations including, but not limited to, safety; security; export control; environmental; and suspension and debarment laws and regulations. Access by a Partner to NASA facilities or property, or to a NASA Information Technology (IT) system or application, is contingent upon compliance with NASA security and safety policies and guidelines including, but not limited to, standards on badging, credentials, and facility and IT system/application access, including use of Interconnection Security Agreements (ISAs), when applicable. B. With respect to any export control requirements: 1. The Parties will comply with all U.S. export control laws and regulations, including the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR), 22 C.F.R. Parts 120 through 130, and the Export Administration Regulations (EAR), 15 C.F.R. Parts 730 through 799, in performing work under this Agreement or any Annex to this Agreement. In the absence of available license exemptions or exceptions, the Partner shall be responsible for obtaining the appropriate licenses or other approvals, if required, for exports of hardware, technical data and software, or for the provision of technical assistance. 2. The Partner shall be responsible for obtaining export licenses, if required, before utilizing foreign persons in the performance of work under this Agreement or any Annex under this Agreement, including instances where the work is to be performed on-site at NASA and where the foreign person will have access to export-controlled technical data or software. 3. The Partner will be responsible for all regulatory record-keeping requirements associated with the use of licenses and license exemptions or exceptions. 4. The Partner will be responsible for ensuring that the provisions of this Article apply to its Related Entities. C. With respect to suspension and debarment requirements: 1. The Partner hereby certifies, to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it has complied, and shall comply, with 2 C.F.R. Part 180, Subpart C, as supplemented by 2 C.F.R. Part 1880, Subpart C. 2. The Partner shall include language and requirements equivalent to those set forth in subparagraph C.1., above, in any lower-tier covered transaction entered into under this Agreement. D. With respect to the requirements in Section 889 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2019, Public Law 115-232: 1. In performing this Agreement, Partner will not use, integrate with a NASA system, or procure with NASA funds (if applicable), "covered telecommunications equipment or services" (as defined in Section 889(f)(3) of the NDAA). 2. The Partner will ensure that the provisions of this Article apply to its Related Entities.

## ARTICLE 16. TERM OF AGREEMENT

This Agreement becomes effective upon the date of the last signature below (“Effective Date”) and shall remain in effect until the completion of all obligations of both Parties hereto, or one year from the Effective Date, whichever comes first.

## ARTICLE 17. RIGHT TO TERMINATE

Either Party may unilaterally terminate this Agreement by providing thirty (30) calendar days written notice to the other Party. In the event of such termination, Partner will be obligated to reimburse NASA for all costs for which the Partner was responsible and that have been incurred in support of this Agreement up to the date the termination notice is received by NASA. Where Partner terminates this Agreement, Partner will also be responsible for termination costs.

## ARTICLE 18. CONTINUING OBLIGATIONS

The rights and obligations of the Parties that, by their nature, would continue beyond the expiration or termination of this Agreement, e.g., “Liability and Risk of Loss”, “Intellectual Property Rights”-related clauses, and “Financial Obligations” shall survive such expiration or termination of this Agreement.

## ARTICLE 19. POINTS OF CONTACT

The following personnel are designated as the Points of Contact between the Parties in the performance of this Agreement.

### Management Points of Contact

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center  
Dalia B. Kirschbaum  
Earth Science Division Director  
Mail Stop: 610  
8800 Greenbelt Road  
Greenbelt, Maryland 20771  
Phone: 301.614.5810  
[Dalia.B.Kirschbaum@nasa.gov](mailto:Dalia.B.Kirschbaum@nasa.gov)

Board of Regents of the University of  
Nebraska for the University of Nebraska-  
Lincoln  
Belinda Gillam  
Project Specialist Team Lead  
151 Prem S. Paul Research Center at  
Whittier School  
2200 Vine Street  
Lincoln NE 68583-0861  
Phone: 402-472-7061  
[Bgillam1@unl.edu](mailto:Bgillam1@unl.edu)

Technical Points of Contact

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center  
Sujay V. Kumar  
Research Assistant, Earth Sciences Remote  
Mail Suite: 617  
8800 Greenbelt Road  
Greenbelt, Maryland 20771  
Phone: 301.286.8663  
[Sujay.v.kumar@nasa.gov](mailto:Sujay.v.kumar@nasa.gov)

Board of Regents of the University of  
Nebraska for the University of Nebraska-  
Lincoln

Mark Svoboda  
Professor, School of Natural Resources  
Hardin Hall 819 South  
Lincoln NE 68583-0968  
Phone: 402-472-8238  
[Msvoboda2@unl.edu](mailto:Msvoboda2@unl.edu)

ARTICLE 20. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Except as otherwise provided in the Article entitled “Priority of Use,” the Article entitled “Intellectual Property Rights – Invention and Patent Rights” (for those activities governed by 37 C.F.R. Part 404), and those situations where a pre-existing statutory or regulatory system exists (e.g., under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552), all disputes concerning questions of fact or law arising under this Agreement shall be referred by the claimant in writing to the appropriate person identified in this Agreement as the “Points of Contact.” The persons identified as the “Points of Contact” for NASA and the Partner will consult and attempt to resolve all issues arising from the implementation of this Agreement. If they are unable to come to agreement on any issue, the dispute will be referred to the signatories to this Agreement, or their designees, for joint resolution. If the Parties remain unable to resolve the dispute, then the NASA signatory or that person’s designee, as applicable, will issue a written decision that will be the final agency decision for the purpose of judicial review. Nothing in this Article limits or prevents either Party from pursuing any other right or remedy available by law upon the issuance of the final agency decision.

ARTICLE 21. MODIFICATIONS

Any modification to this Agreement shall be executed, in writing, and signed by an authorized representative of NASA and the Partner.

ARTICLE 22. ASSIGNMENT

Neither this Agreement nor any interest arising under it will be assigned by the Partner or NASA without the express written consent of the officials executing, or successors, or higher- level officials possessing original or delegated authority to execute this Agreement.

ARTICLE 23. APPLICABLE LAW

U.S. Federal law governs this Agreement for all purposes, including, but not limited to, determining the validity of the Agreement, the meaning of its provisions, and the rights,



obligations and remedies of the Parties.

ARTICLE 24. INDEPENDENT RELATIONSHIP

This Agreement is not intended to constitute, create, give effect to or otherwise recognize a joint venture, partnership, or formal business organization, or agency agreement of any kind, and the rights and obligations of the Parties shall be only those expressly set forth herein.

ARTICLE 25. LOAN OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY

The parties shall enter into a NASA Form 893, Loan of NASA Equipment, for NASA equipment loaned to Partner.

ARTICLE 26. SIGNATORY AUTHORITY

The signatories to this Agreement covenant and warrant that they have authority to execute this Agreement. By signing below, the undersigned agrees to the above terms and conditions.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE  
ADMINISTRATION  
GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER

Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska  
for the University of Nebraska- Lincoln

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Christa D. Peters-Lidard  
Director of Sciences and Exploration

BY:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Sam Mombou  
Director, Office of Sponsored Programs

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: 08/02/2024 | 10:33 CDT \_\_\_\_\_